

CIA/OCI/BRIEF 197-75

Approved For Release 2001/08/21 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000300010099-1

24 DECEMBER 1975

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1 OF 1

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2001/08/21 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000300010099-1

1		4		7	
2		5		8	
3		6		9	

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PAGE OF PAGES

2

CLASSIFICATION

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MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

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EUROPEAN BRIEF: 197-75.4

1. USSR-FRANCE: A PUBLIC EXCHANGE OF RECRIMINATIONS BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTIES SUGGEST THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THEM HAVE REACHED A NEW LOW. THE EXCHANGE WAS TRIGGERED BY A FILM SHOWN ON FRENCH TELEVISION ON DECEMBER 11 DEPICTING SOVIET PERSECUTION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. ON DECEMBER 19, PRAVDA LABELED THE FILM "CRUDE FALSIFICATION," WHICH CLASHED WITH THE GENERALLY IMPROVING CLIMATE OF SOVIET-FRENCH RELATIONS.4

PRAVDA ALSO EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT "SOME PERSONS WHO HAVE ALWAYS GIVEN A DUE REBUFF TO ANTI-SOVIETISM AND ANTI-COMMUNISM WERE TAKEN IN BY THE PROVOCATION OF ■ ANTI-SOVIETISTS AND ANTI-COMMUNISTS AND THUS, WITTINGLY OR UNWITTINGLY, PROMOTED FURTHER SPREAD OF THIS ANTI-SOVIET PROVOCATION." THIS WAS CLEARLY AIMED AT THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY, WHICH, INSTEAD OF CRITICIZING THE FILM ITSELF, HAD ISSUED A FORMAL STATEMENT CALLING ON THE SOVIETS TO REBUT THE CHARGES CONTAINED IN THE FILM.4

THE HIGHLY UNUSUAL PUBLIC AIRING OF DIFFERENCES REFLECTS THE GENERAL COOLING OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES, ESPECIALLY SINCE

DATE:

ORIG:

UNIT:

EXT:

Approved For Release 2001/08/21 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000300010099-4

PAGE OF PAGES

11

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER**INFO: FILE**

☐ INDEX DISSEM BY:
☐ NO INDEX
☐ RETURN TO PER

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ONE RESULT OF THE GROWING DISPUTE IS TO REDUCE THE CHANCES FOR A EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THERE HAS BEEN OTHER EVIDENCE, HOWEVER, THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE DECIDED NOT TO MAKE THE COMPROMISES NECESSARY TO CONVENE THE CONFERENCE.

{CONFIDENTIAL}4

2. YUGOSLAVIA: THE RECENT ARREST OF A SOVIET CITIZEN FOR ESPIONAGE COULD BECOME A CAUSE CELEBRE SHOULD THE TITO REGIME WISH TO ACCELERATE ITS VIGILANCE CAMPAIGN AGAINST FOREIGN, AND PARTICULARLY SOVIET, MEDDLING IN YUGOSLAVIA.4

25X1C ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] A 35-YEAR-OLD WOMAN--WHO RESIDES
IN YUGOSLAVIA BUT IS A SOVIET CITIZEN--WAS ARRESTED ON NOVEMBER 30 FOR
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ESPIONAGE. THE ARREST TOOK PLACE JUST THREE

EXT:

OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2001/08/21 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000300010099-1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

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PAGE 4

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET NOFORN

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF: INFO: FILE

☐ INDEX DISSEM BY:
☐ NO INDEX
☐ RETURN TO PER

☐ IF FILES #

DAYS AFTER PRAVDA HAD ASSEMERED THAT MOSCOW HAD NO HAND IN THE ACTIVITIES OF PRO-SOVIET SUBVERSIVES IN YUGOSLAVIA. THE WOMAN IS REPORTEDLY THE FIRST SOVIET CITIZEN TO BE ARRESTED IN THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST COMINFORMISTS AND OTHER SUBVERSIVES.4

25X1C

[REDACTED] THAT THERE WAS A LINK BETWEEN THE ARRESTED WOMAN AND THE SOVIET CONSULATE IN ZAGREB. THE RECENT, PREMATURE DEPARTURE OF THE SOVIET CONSUL GENERAL FROM ZAGREB HAD ALREADY LOOSED RUMMORS OF HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH COMINFORMISTS. THE SOVIET DIPLOMAT HAD BEEN EXPELLED FROM GREAT BRITAIN IN 1971, WHEN LONDON OUSTED A HOST OF SUSPECTED SOVIET INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS.4

THE TITO REGIME COULD USE THE INCIDENT TO QUESTION--EITHER BY INNUENDO OR OUTRIGHT ACCUSATION--THE SINCERITY OF SOVIET PROMISES TO STAY OUT OF YUGOSLAVIA AFFAIRS. {CONFIDENTIAL} E-2, IMPDET.4

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25X1A [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

DATE: DECEMBER 23, 1975

ORIG: [REDACTED]

UNIT: 0C17/FL0

EXT: 9106

Approved For Release 2001/08/21 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000300010099-1
OUTGOING MESSAGE

1	00608R000300010099-1	7	
2		8	
3		8	

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY
AGE COI ACP TOG TPE MRO DCI
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PAGE OF PAGES
2

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET NOFORN

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

☐ INDEX DISSEM BY:
☐ NO INDEX
☐ RETURN TO PER
☐ IF FILES #

EAST ASIA BRIEF 197-75.4

LAOS: THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEGUN TO AIRLIFT FOOD AND PETROLEUM FROM HANOI TO VIENTIANE TO HELP MAKE UP SHORTAGES CAUSED BY THE CLOSURE OF THE THAI BORDER. AN AN-12 MADE ITS FIRST DELIVERY TO VIENTIANE ON DECEMBER 22.4

THE SOVIETS HAD HOPED ALSO TO MOVE SUPPLIES BY AIR FROM BANGKOK TO VIENTIANE. THE SOVIETS HAD APPARENTLY CLAIMED THAT THESE SUPPLIES WOULD BE USED BY THEIR EMBASSY. THAI FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI, HOWEVER, ON DECEMBER 22 TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE WOULD PERMIT SUCH AN AIRLIFT ONLY AFTER THE BORDER IS REOPENED. CHATCHAI SAID THAT THE BORDER COULD BE REOPENED AFTER THAI AND LAO OFFICIALS MEET TO DISCUSS THE CONTINUED INFLUX OF REFUGEES FROM LAOS, THE SMUGGLING OF ARMS INTO THAILAND, THE SMUGGLING OF COMMODITIES FROM THAILAND INTO LAOS, AND "OTHER PROBLEMS."4

LAO DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUN SIPRASEUT ON MONDAY PUBLICLY RULED OUT ANY TALKS UNTIL THAILAND REOPENS THE BORDER AND "SINCERELY DISPLAYS A FRIENDLY ATTITUDE OF TRUE NEIGHBORLINESS." HE ADMITTED THAT THE BORDER CLOSURE HAD CAUSED

DATE:
ORIG:
UNIT:
EXT:

OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2001/08/21 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000300010099-1

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE COI ACP TOG TPE MRO DCI

OMF 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

PAGE 3 OF 3

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET NOFORN

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

0 INDEX DISSEM BY:
0 NO INDEX
0 RETURN TO PER

0 IF FILES #

SERIOUS ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES IN VIENTIANE, BUT ADDED THAT SEVERAL SOCIALIST COUNTRIES HAD AGREED TO TRANSPORT FUEL, MILK, AND SUGAR TO LAOS. PHOUN SAID THAT A CONVOY OF VIETNAMESE VEHICLES HAD ALREADY DELIVERED SOME FUEL AND OTHER SUPPLIES AND CLAIMED THAT NEW DELIVERIES FROM AND THROUGH VIETNAM WILL ENABLE THE LAO TO COPE WITH SHORTAGES. {CONFIDENTIAL} E-2 IMPDET.H

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DATE: DECEMBER 24, 1975
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MIDDLE EAST AFRICA BRIEF 197-75.4

1. LEBANON: SYRIA AND LEBANON MAY HAVE AGREED, DURING PRIME MINISTER KARAMI'S VISIT TO DAMASCUS ON MONDAY, TO TAKE MORE FORCEFUL ACTION TO RESTRICT THE FLOW OF ARMS TO THE WARRING PARTIES IN LEBANON.

GENERALLY RELIABLE PRESS REPORTS SAY THAT THE PLAN TO LIMIT THE FLOW OF ARMS IS PART OF A WIDER UNDERSTANDING THAT INCLUDES PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CEASE-FIRE, RESUMING HIGH-LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS ON POLITICAL REFORM, AND HOLDING A MEETING OF SYRIAN AND LEBANESE HEADS OF STATE.⁴

PRESIDENT FRANJIYAH HAS BEEN HOPING THAT PRESIDENT ASAD WILL INVITE HIM TO DAMASCUS TO MEET WITH SAUDI KING KHALID THURSDAY FRANJIYAH PROBABLY CALCULATES THAT SUCH A MEETING WOULD HELP HIM POLITICALLY, EVEN IF IT DID NOTHING TO END THE FIGHTING IN LEBANON. A LEBANESE OFFICIAL HAS SAID THAT PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION CHAIRMAN YASIR ARAFAT MAY ALSO JOIN THE GROUP.4

FRANJIIYAH AND ASAD HAVE NOT MET SINCE JANUARY, BEFORE THE

DATE:
ORIG:
UNIT:
EXT:

OUTGOING MESSAGE

1		4		7	
2		5		8	
3		6		9	

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PAGE OF PAGES

3

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET NOFORN

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

☐ INDEX DISSEM BY:☐ NO INDEX☐ RETURN TO PER☐ IF FILES #

TROUBLES OF 1975 BEGAN. A MEETING OF THE TWO HAS BEEN UNDER
 CONSIDERATION FOR SOME MONTHS AS A POSSIBLE MEANS OF STIMULATING
 PROGRESS IN THE ENDLESS POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS.

ASAD MAY ABANDON ANY PLANS TO MEET WITH FRANJIYAH, FOLLOWING
 ALLEGATIONS BY LEBANESE CHRISTIAN LEADERS THIS WEEK THAT SYRIAN
 OR SYRIAN-CONTROLLED PALESTINIAN FORCES HAVE JOINED IN THE
 FIGHTING IN LEBANON. BOTH DAMASCUS AND THE PLO HAVE DENIED THESE
 CHARGES.4

SOME TROOPS FROM SAIQA AND THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ARMY--ALL
 HEAVILY INFLUENCED OR CONTROLLED BY SYRIA--APPARENTLY DID PARTICIPATE
 IN THE HEAVY CLASHES AT ZAHLAH. THEY JOINED RADICAL FEDAYEEN AND
 LOCAL LEFTIST MILITIAS TO FORM A COMBINED FORCE ESTIMATED AT ABOUT
 2,000 TO ATTACK THE PREDOMINANTLY CHRISTIAN TOWN.4

LEBANESE ARMY UNITS IN THE AREA REPORTEDLY SUMMONED
 REINFORCEMENTS FROM BEIRUT TO HELP THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS. USING
 VEHICLE-MOUNTED GUNS AND FIELD ARTILLERY, THE ARMY INFLICTED HEAVY
 CASUALTIES ON THE ATTACKERS.4

ALTHOUGH NO SYRIAN TROOPS WERE INVOLVED IN THE CLASH, DAMASCUS

DATE:

ORIG:

UNIT:

EXT:

OUTGOING MESSAGE

1		4		7	
2		5		8	
3		6		9	

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 MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR DATE-TIME GROUP CITE MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER
 4

CONF:

INFO: FILE

0 INDEX DISSEM BY:

0 NO INDEX

0 RETURN TO PER

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MAY DECIDE IT MUST TEMPORARILY BE FIRMER WITH LEBANESE CHRISTIANS
 IN THE POLITICAL TALKS TO PLEASE SYRIA'S PALESTINIAN AND LEFTIST
 ALLIES IN LEBANON. THE CLASH AT ZAHLAH WAS ONE OF THE LARGEST
 SINCE THE FIGHTING IN LEBANON BEGAN EARLY THIS YEAR, AND IF THE REPORTS
 ARE ACCURATE, WAS THE MOST BLATANT CASE OF THE ARMY BACKING PRIVATE
 CHRISTIAN FORCES. {CONFIDENTIAL}

2. INDIA: IMPORTANT POLITICAL DECISIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT MAY BE
 REVEALED AT A FIVE-DAY MEETING OF RULING CONGRESS PARTY OFFICIALS
 SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON DECEMBER 29 IN CHANDIGARH. PRIME MINISTER
 INDIRA GANDHI WILL PROBABLY USE THE MEETING PRIMARILY TO SECURE
 ENDORSEMENT OF HER ACTIONS SINCE ASSUMING EMERGENCY POWERS SIX
 MONTHS AGO, BUT SHE MAY POSSIBLY PROVIDE SOME CLARIFICATION ON SUCH
 KEY QUESTIONS AS THE DURATION OF THE EMERGENCY AND WHETHER NATIONAL
 ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD ON SCHEDULE NEXT SPRING. ACCORDING TO THE
 INDIAN RUMOR MILL, GANDHI MAY USE THE OCCASION TO ANNOUNCE THE RELEASE
 OF A NUMBER OF DETAINED OPPOSITION POLITICAL LEADERS.

GANDHI'S REMARKS AT THE SESSION MAY ALSO THROW SOME LIGHT ON THE
 AGENDA OF THE NEXT PARLIAMENTARY SESSION, WHICH BEGINS ON JANUARY 5.

DATE:
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OUTGOING MESSAGE

1		4		7	
2		5		8	
3		6		9	

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SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

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PAGE OF PAGES

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CLASSIFICATION

SECRET NOFORN

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

0 INDEX DISSEM BY:
 0 NO INDEX
 0 RETURN TO PER

0 IF FILES #

THERE ARE INDICATIONS SHE MAY SEEK TO TRANSFORM PARLIAMENT INTO A
 CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OR INTRODUCE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS THAT
 WOULD PROVIDE FOR A PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AND/OR REDUCE
 THE POWERS OF THE COURTS.4

THE CONGRESS YOUTH PARTY, WHICH GANDHI'S SON SANJAY IS TRYING
 TO REVITALIZE AND USE AS A PERSONAL POWER BASE, WILL HOLD CONCURRENT
 SPECIAL MEETINGS. BOTH GROUPS CAN BE EXPECTED TO DEMONSTRATE SUPPORT
 FOR GANDHI'S PACKAGE OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC REFORMS AIMED AT WINNING
 POPULAR BACKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT. {CONFIDENTIAL} E-2, IMPDET.H

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DATE: DECEMBER 24, 1975

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UNIT: OCI/FLD

EXT: 9106

2

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF 197-75.4

2. //ARGENTINA: THE SETTLEMENT ON DECEMBER 22 THAT ENDED THE REBELLION IN THE ARGENTINE AIR FORCE REPORTEDLY CALLS FOR A LIMIT ON PRESIDENT PERON'S TENURE, POSSIBLY AS SHORT AS 30 DAYS.//4

//ALTHOUGH THE REBELS' ONLY CONFIRMED SUCCESS WAS THE FORCED RETIREMENT OF THE AIR FORCE COMMANDER, THEIR MOVE COULD WELL HAVE SPURRED THE MILITARY TO WORK FOR PERON'S REMOVAL. THE THREE SERVICE CHIEFS ARE SAID TO HAVE AGREED TO TAKE POWER BY THE END OF JANUARY IF THEY CANNOT PERSUADE HER TO RESIGN.//4

//IN AN EFFORT TO GOAD THE MILITARY INTO OVERTHROWING THE GOVERNMENT, LEFTIST GUERRILLAS--PERHAPS AS MANY AS TWO HUNDRED--LAUNCHED A SERIES OF ATTACKS ON DECEMBER 23 ON MILITARY AND POLICE INSTALLATIONS IN AND AROUND BUENOS AIRES.//4

//AT LAST REPORT, A LARGEESCALE ATTACK AGAINST A MAJOR ARMY ARSENAL HAD RESULTED IN MANY DEAD AND WOUNDED BEFORE IT WAS BEATEN OFF BY TROOPS. NAVY JETS WERE FLOWN IN TO BOMB GUERRILLAS HOLED UP IN THE LARGE ARSENAL COMPOUND. (SECRET NOFORN//E-2 IMPDET.4

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DECEMBER 24, 1975

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